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Boards petition Baystate to postpone ER closure

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – SelectBoard members met quickly Monday night to approve a letter that will ask Baystate Health officials to postpone the closure of the Mary Lane satellite emergency facility until June 2022, a year later than Baystate has proposed. SelectBoard members from Hardwick and West Brookfield as well as the Ware Business & Civic Association will also be asked to sign the letter.

The letter will also be signed by state Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, State Rep. Todd Smola, R-Warren, and State Rep. Donald Berthiaume, R-Spencer.

The letter also requests the emergency helicopter landing area on the site be kept and maintained and demands a meeting as soon as possible with Baystate officials to discuss the proposed closure in greater detail. The letter details the communities are requesting Baystate pay for a community planning process to determine the best property use, and they provide details about what is wrong with the building.

In late January, Baystate Health CEO Dr. Mark Keroack and Baystate Health Eastern Region President Molly Gray announced Mary Lane's emergency services and cancer care would end by this



The Ware SelectBoard agreed to sign a letter asking Baystate Health officials to postpone closing Mary Lane's satellite emergency facility for a year. The company wants to close it by this June and the letter requests it be delayed until June 2022.

File photo

June, depending on state regulatory hearings, and the remainder of its medical services would end in 18 months. Emergency medical care will be available at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer and at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Baystate has said it would demolish the building and tidy the site, then give it the town for green space, or work with the town on another use if that is what officials want.

Local officials and area state legislators have decried the lack of time

towns have to plan for emergency services as the hospital closes.

Communications

In requesting a meeting with Baystate officials be held as soon as possible the letter describes

Baystate's communications around the closure of the ER and medical services as "terrible."

"From our legislatures to our local leaders to the region's residents, the suddenness of the closure announcement left no room for planning or discussion of options and timing," the letter reads. "The community has loyally supported the Mary Lane facility for decades. The legislators have provided support for Baystate operations. The mistreatment and betrayal shown by the lack of communication by Baystate was unwarranted and unacceptable. It was shocking. We request that Baystate immediately and openly include the region's leaders in discussion and planning moving forward."

Sudden closure

It also points out the sudden closure "does not leave towns and residents adequate time to create alternate plans for emergency health and amendments to budgets and operations needed to provide ongoing services. Baystate should delay this closure for several months to cooperatively address all the impacts this change will have. We request that Baystate please keep the ER open through June of 2022."

Please see **MLH**, page 5

USDA deems sewer agreement buyout essential

Town offers Eagle Hill \$1.8 mil to end it

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – The Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting with the Sewer Commission and the Finance Committee on Monday, March 8, via Microsoft Teams. After much discussion, the board voted to send a letter to Eagle Hill School offering it \$1.8 million to end the years-long sewer system agreement between the town and the school. The USDA has told the town its \$27 million grant for a new sewer system will be in jeopardy if the agreement is not ended.

Years ago the school paid its sewer bills in advance so the town would have money at that time to fix the sewer system between the school and Gilbertville. However, engineers currently designing a new system in that area, as a result of the town receiving a multi-million grant to fix the town's sewer system, say there are issues within that line and at the joint where the town's system meets the school's systems.

Over 30 people attended the virtual meeting, including residents, representatives from the USDA, DPG Engineering LLC, RCAP Solutions and Eagle Hill School. Town Administrator Theresa Cofsky turned the meeting over to DPC Engineering LLC Project Manager Justin Skelly, and President Dave Prickett, along with DPC's financial expert, James Rivers.

Project upgrades

Skelly outlined the work needed to be done to complete the town's wastewater systems upgrades project. Skelly said the Gilbertville Water Pollution Control Facility is "well overdue for an upgrade," and while both Wheelwright's WPCF and the Eagle Hill sewer system have been updated more recently, both of the systems are "inadequate." New headworks will be added to the Gilbertville and Wheelwright sites to help remove rags and flushable wipes that can cause major blockage problems. Skelly said the most recent upgrade, the Eagle Hill Sewer System, "really led to some unfortunate situations in town."

Prickett said of the Eagle Hill Sewer System, "Despite it's small size, it certainly has the most challenges." He said those challenges include blockages, backups within the system, low pumping rates and odor control. Reasons for these issues, Prickett said, are likely caused by five factors: internal diameter of the force main; system-head curve hydraulics and pumps;

Please see **SEWER**, page 3

Quaboag proposes 1.24% budget increase

Budget hearing to be held March 15

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee held an informational session Monday on the district's fiscal 2022 budget, which proposes about a 1.24% increase in the total operating budget over this year. There were about 25 people attending the meeting, which included School Committee members and school officials.

The School Committee will hold a formal budget hearing and take a vote on it during a meet-

ing on Monday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

The total budget, which includes the operating and capital budgets, is proposed to increase by an overall 1.11%, according to the presentation. The total proposed budget is \$18,852,789 compared to this year's \$18,644,959, a difference of \$207,830.

Warren's assessment is expected to be \$3,809,816, an increase of \$134,078 over this year, and West Brookfield's assessment is expected to be \$3,903,420, a difference of \$178,675, over this year. The assessments also include above the minimum contribution amounts of \$543,159 for Warren and \$374,139

Please see **BUDGET**, page 2

Residents beautify town streets

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN – Despite the nippy weather early Saturday morning volunteers got their garbage bags from the center of town or in West Warren, then headed out to make the town a prettier place.

John Fijol, and his wife, Carrie Plante-Fijol, and their friend, Sarah Tetreault, decided to hold the event after hearing many complaints about trash along the town's roadways.

They got 400 trash bags donated and they had two places to drop off the bags – at the old train station in the center of town and at the traffic lights in West Warren on Jim Allard's property.

Please see **CLEAN-UP**, page 6



Sarah Tetreault and friends John Fijol, and his wife, Carrie Plante-Fijol, in the center of town Saturday morning as they handed out trash bags for volunteers to fill with trash collected from town streets.

Turley Publications courtesy photos

LEFT: David and Patty Gancorz pick up trash along New Reed Street.

Majority of WMS students to be in schools by late March

Kindergarteners and first-graders to join them in SMK

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – School Superintendent Dr. Marlene DiLeo told the Ware School Committee at its March 3 meeting that fourth and fifth-graders at Ware Middle School were attending in-person school five days a week after the school was prepared for their arrival. The sixth-graders are set to join them on March 26, she said.

There will also be 30 additional students returning to WMS for in-person instruction after the third marking period ends, she said.

All of these students fit in WMS with six feet between each student and six feet between the teachers and their students, DiLeo said.

Ware Junior Senior High School students were scheduled to begin attending school for two full days per week on March 8, instead of two partial days. The students are also attending Wednesdays in person as well, and cohorts take turns attending three days a week, she said.

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Ware victorious over Agawam

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.



Last week's photo featured Gabriella Grenda, almost 2, getting a hug from her cousin Ryan King, 12, after she had received a dollar for snacks and was trying to decide what she should buy. They were at movie night at Grenville Park in Ware and it ran in the July 26, 2007 edition of the Ware River News.

If anyone recognizes the man in this week's photograph or what he's doing, please send the answer, along with your full name to ekennedy@turley.com



Build a legacy at the Warren Historical Commission

WARREN – Collectors and readers of Warren history admire the work of those who've gone before. The way they built their houses and helped develop the town, the old hotels and taverns, schools, banks and town halls. We've collected photographs, advertising pieces, historical accounts and artifacts. All these items were created by Warren people who were living and working here. It is their legacy. But now what will we

leave behind?

Those who serve on the Warren Historical Commission can contribute their knowledge and efforts and leave their mark on the town records. Anyone who would like to create their legacy for future generations to admire should contact the Warren Selectmen and ask to be appointed to the Warren Historical Commission. Or, drop a line to tosgbuck37@verizon.net to inquire for more information.

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On March 29, DiLeo said the district plans to return all in-person students in kindergarten and first grade to Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School, but every elementary student cannot fit in SMK with 6-foot social distancing.

DiLeo said the Department of Education Commissioner has said he wants all elementary school students in public education physically back in the schools by April 5, although he has said families who want to remain remote may do so through the end of the year.

She said he has not addressed when high school students should return to five-day, in-person classes, and it would be difficult to fit everyone in if social distancing remains at six feet.

DiLeo said the CDC recommends six-foot social distancing but the World Health Organization recommends three feet. They make recommendations, but do not have authority over school districts, she said.

"We will make sure teachers have their six feet social distancing regardless of what else we do," she said.

School Committee member Julie Slattery asked DiLeo if she thought it

was possible to get all students back in school five days a week if social-distancing was reduced to under six feet, and DiLeo said "it was definitely a possibility."

Pooled testing

Head nurse Jen Knight told the School Committee that pooled testing for COVID-19 went smoothly the previous week, with over 30 staff members taking part. There were no positive results for COVID-19, she said.

This past week, the district would start testing students in the three schools whose parents had signed consent forms, she said.

Knight said students, K-12, are being shown how to collect samples from their nostrils, and those samples are then collected and tested in groups of 10 or so. With younger students in kindergarten and first grade, staff supervise them to be sure they collecting samples properly. She said for pooled testing samples are taken just inside the nostril, not up high as they are done at individual COVID-19 testing sites.

Knight said she is also working on getting COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the schools, and teachers and other school staff will become eligible for the vaccines through the state system on March 11.

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Regional Ambulance Committee will await SelectBoard decisions

SelectBoards to gather more information

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – Members of the Regional Ambulance Committee, which was set up to monitor how well the agreement to provide ambulance services to Hardwick is working, met briefly Tuesday and decided to forego any immediate meetings until the respective SelectBoards decide whether the agreement will stay in place. In June, the three-year contract between both towns will be up.

Hardwick officials told last year, Hardwick selectmen said their town could not afford to have the \$77,000 a year assessment rise to the proposed \$133,000 a year.

Ware proposed the \$133,000 as the true cost of providing the service. At the time, Hardwick selectmen said the Fire Department also received about \$96,000 in health insurance payments for Hardwick patients. Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon said at that meeting that good practice guided the assessment being built on known costs and revenues, and health insurance payments could not be relied upon to remain stable.

Hardwick SelectBoard member Julie Quink said the town was still not able to afford the higher figure as the town's finances were strapped.

Both SelectBoards will meet Tuesday, March 16, during which Hardwick may receive more information about possible alternatives for EMS services with the West Brookfield Rescue Squad and Barre, and Ware may discuss what the town will charge Hardwick

going forward and if they want the town to continue providing services through the agreement.

Both parties must notify the other party by April 1 if they no longer wish to continue the agreement, which gives 90 days notice for planning purposes.

A further problem involves the proposed closure of Mary Lane's satellite emergency facility, where emergency calls from Ware and surrounding towns often go first. Baystate Health has proposed closing the facility in June, although regulatory hearings must first be held.

The closure of the facility means longer drive times to Baystate Wing in Palmer, which will impact Ware's EMS services. There will no longer be fairly short turn-around times by using Mary Lane as it does now, and some portions of Hardwick are already a lengthy drive for Ware ambulances.

Hardwick Board of Selectmen notebook

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – The Board of Selectmen met on Monday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

Police union contract

Board of Selectmen Chair Kenan Young asked if Officer Ryan Gentile would be joining the meeting. Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said he was unable to attend, but had submitted documentation for the board to review. Cofske said Gentile requested an

HES kitchen steamer replacement

The school district informed the board that their combi-oven kitchen steamer at Hardwick Elementary School needed to be replaced. The district is willing to pay for the item plus labor in the amount of \$18,151.52 out of their funds, and asked the town

Election warrant approved

The Annual Town Election warrant was approved. The Annual Town Election will be held on April 12, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Hardwick Elementary School.

People can put some spring in their steps with free yoga

WARREN – Spring forth with yoga, a four-week series, will be presented on Zoom and in person at the Centered Place, 286 Bridge St. It will run from March 25 to April 15, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Let yoga melt away tension carried over from the winter and reduce stress from hardships brought about by the pandemic. Learn simple poses and moves to improve flexibility, agility, balance

and poise. Take care of back aches, neck and shoulder tension, and poor digestion. Learn to relax and breathe more easily and put spring in your step and hope in your heart.

Yoga is a clinically tested tool for reducing stress and improving well-being. It will be taught by Phil Milgrom, RYT, CSYT, CSMT, who is co-director of The Centered Place <http://www.thecenteredplace.com>.

Register at the Warren Public

Library by calling 413-436-7690 or email warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com. Please Indicate whether attendance will be in person or from home through Zoom. This event is free for all ages 15 and up.

Sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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for West Brookfield, which are \$30,941 and \$48,070, respectively, more than last year. The assessments also include transportation costs, which will go up this year. Warren's share of busing for next year is \$596,115, up \$30,086 over this year, and West Brookfield's share is \$410,617, an increase of \$43,850.

West Brookfield owes no money for capital outlays to the West Brookfield Elementary School, and the Warren Community Elementary School has a payment of \$149,048 next year, compared to \$171,395 for this year, which covers a number improvements such as a new roof.

Positives are the continuation of pandemic grant money, also known as ESSER II, which will be \$740,475 next year, the intent to prepay toward next year's special education budget with this year's funds and a \$100,000 "insurance holiday" by the district's health insurance provider.

The district is expected to bring in about \$750,000 in School Choice funds, as it did this year, and has only lost two students to other school districts through School Choice, a trend the district hopes continues.

The Budget Subcommittee also trimmed about \$1 million from the district before it was presented Monday night, according to Jason Morgan, who chairs the subcommittee.

Among the priorities for the district for fiscal 2022 are an in-district autism program for elementary students at West Brookfield Elementary School at \$130,000, and an in-district emotional behavioral disorder program, at \$115,000 at Warren Community Elementary School. There have been rising numbers of students on the autism spectrum and who have emotional behavioral disorders in the elementary schools, and these programs will help slow the out-of-district placement costs of such students and allow them to attend school locally.

If additional special education students with these issues move in, it is unclear whether the out-of-dis-

trict costs can stabilize. Quaboag School Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian said as of last Friday, two more such special education students had moved into the district, and the district is hoping the families will try the new programs.

Also in the budget is \$24,000 to expand the certified nursing assistant program and officials would like to continue the firefighting academy along with other priorities such as the early education program, school security, high school math, special education staffing, math and English tutors, athletics and band, chorus and maintaining the music program. The budget also includes \$15,000 for middle school sports for next year, which was not funded this year.

With the movement of the preschool programs from the elementary schools to the high school, it is hoped a partnership with a college or university can be developed to offer high school students early education experience. The costs for the preschool, about \$225,000, have been moved to the high school's budget.

The district's budget for fiscal 2022 is on the budget's website.

HELP WANTED

The Ware Cemetery Commission is seeking a **Part Time Worker**, 19 hours per week, between approximately April 5, 2021 and December 1, 2021 to help maintain Aspen Grove Cemetery and other cemeteries maintained by Town of Ware.

The person chosen must be capable of using power equipment, some lifting and general groundskeeping. The person must be physically fit as the job requires a lot of time spent walking in the cemeteries. Salary is \$13.50 per hour.

Applications should be mailed by March 18, 2021.

C/O Ware Cemetery Commission
Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
Applications available on town website

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Auto sales business chooses not to move forward

Board vote prevents resubmission of project

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

WARREN – BHT Properties Group has withdrawn its application for a special permit to operate a junkyard on Brimfield Road and will not be able to reapply for a permit at this property in the future.

During its recent meeting, the Warren Planning Board voted to approve the withdrawal of the application with prejudice, meaning that the group cannot reapply for a new application at the property in the future.

Initially, the group pursued a Planning Board special permit to build a parking lot at the 727 Brimfield Road property that would house used cars until they were sold, according to information from previous meetings on the matter. The company had appeared before the Planning Board previously and the hearing had been continued until the board’s March 8 meeting, at which the business was slated to

present detailed engineering plans for the proposed project. About 40 acres of the 145-acre parcel would have been used for a parking lot that would store cars; there would have been roughly 100 cars per acre, according to previous meeting reports.

In response to the proposed project, the town had received a petition signed by about 125 residents who opposed the project and 70 individual letters from residents also against the project, according to reports. Some of the abutters had hired a lawyer to represent them during the process.

The Planning Board meeting began at 7:15 p.m. and was conducted on Zoom, the videoconferencing platform. At the previous meeting, Ram Adar, an owner of BHT Properties Group, noted that if town officials and residents did not want the project, the company would locate a facility somewhere else.

“We will be welcomed in other cities,” he had said during that meeting.

BHT Properties appears to be based in Florida, according to its website.

Urban tree canopy takes root

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – In 2019, the East Quabbin Land Trust in partnership with Opacum Land Trust, the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, The U.S. Forest Service, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the town of Ware, was able to secure a grant that would allow the planting of 1,000 tress in urban areas of Ware.

EQLT Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said their primary focus is on the downtown area of Ware. “Trees have so many benefits on so many levels. The priority is to plant the trees where they are needed the most,” said Henshaw. The planting of 1,000 trees in Ware will add approximately 10 acres of tree canopy to the town when the trees reach maturity.

Ware’s portion of the grant is part of a \$252,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Landscape Scale Restoration program to plant 1,000 trees each in Southbridge and Ware. As EQLT is doing for the town of Ware with tree planting, Opacum Land Trust will do the same with the town of Southbridge. The work began in the fall of 2019, and will continue for a three-year period into 2022.

Volunteers and EQLT members began planting trees in October of 2019 at Grenville Park. They were able to successfully plant 22 native trees, including red maples, before the weather changed and the pandemic hit. Working in small groups in 2020, they planted nine trees at Highland Village, in addition to private residences.

While Henshaw said there is no minimum space requirement to plant trees, the trees need to be at least five feet away from underground wires and gas lines, and overhead lines need to be considered as the tree grows. “The goal is to plant the right tree for the space. If there’s plenty of space, things like oaks and maples would be a top choice. There are also different varieties ideal for small spaces. The goal is to provide a lot of canopy,” said Henshaw. The trees also need to be planted with visibility from the public way.

Henshaw said this year their tree planting would begin mid-April, running into June or until the weather becomes too hot. Planting will resume September through early November when the weather cools. Caring for the trees is a commitment, but it is as simple as just adding water. EQLT is working with a professional arborist to educate property owners on how to care for their new trees.



Turley Publications Photos Courtesy of EQLT
EQLT volunteers are shown in October of 2019 planting trees at Grenville Park.

“The most important thing is to give the tree 10 to 15 gallons of water a week during growing season for the first two years. It’s

important people know that trees need lots of water when they are

Please see **TREE**, page 6

SEWER from page 1

back-pressure, air release valves and clean outs; grinder pump connections to the force main; and the depth of the force main.

DPG talked with town officials and came up with 17 possible alternatives to alleviate these issues. After discussion, they concluded that the installation of a new intermediate pump station at Greenwich Road near the Common was necessary, as well as replacing 3,100 feet of existing force main with gravity sewer at a swampy area near Dow Road.

Skelly said all wetlands are flagged at appropriate sites and that geotechnical borings were completed. “Right now we are on track to complete the design in summer of this year,” he said. Prickett said their timeline depends on the town’s letter of commitment with the USDA.

Offer letter

After DPG concluded their presentation, Board of Selectman Chairman Kenan Young read a draft letter to be sent to the Board of Trustees at Eagle Hill School. The three-page letter signed by Young states, “the town is offering to pay Eagle Hill School a one-time, lump sum payment of \$1.8 million in full satisfaction of any funds that may be due and owing on the sewer extension agreement between the Town of Hardwick and Eagle Hill School, in lieu of continuing to grant the school credits against its sewer user fees.”

Young’s letter states, “the force main has experienced numerous instances of blockage since its installation, leading to odor complaints, back-ups into abutting properties and an increasing frequency in the need for emergency repairs. According to the engineering consultant retained by the town, these problems are the result of several limitations with the existing Eagle Hill School Sewer System that do not meet industry design guidelines and standards, thus resulting in poor system performance. Consequently, it is recommended that a portion of the force main be replaced and that a new pump station be constructed.”

Young’s letter continues, “It is estimated that this work will cost approximately \$3.8 million...The

town has qualified for \$27,017,500 in federal and state funding to upgrade its entire wastewater treatment system, including the portions of the system that directly serve Eagle Hill School. The provision of those grant funds, however, is expressly contingent upon the town and Eagle Hill School restructuring their sewer use agreement.”

In the letter, Young states, “This issue has been discussed at public meetings of the Board of Selectmen, and at one such public informational meeting held on March 12, 2020, that was well attended (including USDA officials, state and local officials, residents and reporters), your Headmaster, Peter J. McDonald, represented that Eagle Hill School would accept a lump sum payment of \$1.8 million in lieu of continuing credits against Eagle Hill School’s sewer user fees.”

Rate structure

After reading the letter, Young turned the meeting over to Laurie Stevens, of RCAP Solutions. The town is working with RCAP to design a rate structure for commercial and residential sewer users. Stevens reviewed the past five years of expenses, comparing each year in order to project five years out. The rate projections she calculated for the annual cost of a single-family home was \$1,148, or a 15.4% increase. The projected annual cost for the same home would be \$1,292 (a 29.8% increase) without Eagle Hill School. Stevens said an almost 30% increase is “out of the affordability range.”

Offer letter approved

Young asked Finance Committee members Cheryl Wolfe, Leon Small and Vincent Nastasi, how they felt about sending the letter to the trustees of Eagle Hill School. Small said he was a “little overwhelmed” by the information, but did not see how the town had any choice. The three Finance Committee members present agreed to send the letter.

Sewer Commissioners Benny Hanson and Liz Cyran both said the letter would be well-received by the school.

Board of Selectmen member Julie Quink said she felt “sick to

her stomach,” about delivering the letter to Eagle Hill School. She said she understood the importance of \$27 million to the town, but feels there is no transparency in this situation. “We’re not being given a choice,” she said.

Board of Selectmen member Kelly Kemp felt this letter would ruin any chance of a working relationship between the town and Eagle Hill School. Young asked both Quink and Kemp for a motion to approve the delivery of the letter. Quink asked Young how he felt about the situation and he said, “it needs to be done, this is part of our conditions that we signed.”

USDA Community Programs Director Jennifer Lerch said the project cannot move forward unless they are out from under the existing contract with Eagle Hill School. At this point, a resident tried to comment, but Young said the board needed to vote and a letter needed to be sent.

Quink said it would be better to have a conversation, rather than send a letter with a 10-day response time. Quink said this letter would be like “sending a missile” into an already strained relationship. Young said “This is not a missile, this is an offer letter.” Kemp agreed that 10 days was insufficient time to make a major legal decision. Lerch said Eagle Hill School officials could request an extension after receiving the letter, if they needed more time. Both Lerch and Young said the Board of Selectmen needed to vote on sending this letter tonight.

Cofske said the letter “has no intention of trying to ruin a relationship. It is an offer, a fair offer.” Quink said she understood and appreciated what Cofske was saying, but it was a lot of information to take in. “I’m disappointed in the process. I was hoping it would be a cooperative process...I wish it didn’t have to come down to this type of letter,” said Quink. Kemp said it is tiring to “get information at the twelfth hour constantly,” adding “if this is so critical there should be time to digest it.” The board approved the sending of the offer letter to the Eagle Hill School Board of Trustees.

Public comments

Dr. PJ McDonald, Head of School at Eagle Hill School, ques-

tioned if the Eagle Hill addition has had anything to do with the plant failures in Gilbertville and Wheelwright. He said those plants were going to need upgrades regardless, and 90% of the money to be spent on this project had “nothing to do with Eagle Hill,” but rather those plants. McDonald said he is “shocked” that the USDA is going along with the “continued manipulation to change the agreement.” McDonald also disagreed with Young’s statement in the offer letter about him agreeing to the \$1.8 million offer during a public meeting. “I did nothing of the sort, you know it,” he said.

McDonald said he has repeatedly asked to renegotiate the contract during executive session. Young said they cannot have executive sessions with McDonald, as town counsel advised against it. McDonald also said he was concerned the other two selectmen were unaware of the situation until now. Young said both Quink and Kemp had been informed many times, and had been directed to contact Cofske for any concerns.

A newcomer to the Sewer Commission, Cyran, said “the taxpayers will take the hit on this. We have to rely on the experts... we are not saying Eagle Hill is the lynch pin, the USDA is.”

McDonald said the school prepaid their sewer fees for \$2.6 million, in addition to voluntarily placing 13 houses back on the tax roll, and he did not want the town to lose the money needed for the project. He said they went in “good faith” to the proposal with Tighe and Bond, which designed the system to include the school to the town’s sewer system in 2014. Young said they never saw the Tighe and Bond design. McDonald said that Young’s statement was a “complete revision of history.”

McDonald agreed to review the offer letter and Young said that was all they could ask at this point.

Stevens offered to go over the finances with

McDonald, the USDA and town representatives. Cyran and Kemp asked to be included in these meetings.

Residents Devon Jurczyk and Erik Fleming both questioned if the existing Hardwick Center system was actually failing. Prickett said the system is not working and the back pressure valves installed were designed for water systems and are not sufficient. Jurczyk said one valve is not working and needs to be replaced, for which the town paid, but has yet to correct. Jurczyk also asked if the town has ever cleaned the flow meter. WPCF Superintendent Scott Potter said they have not cleaned the flow meter as there are no provisions stating that needs to be done. Fleming said this situation needs to be reviewed as there doesn’t seem to be any oversight and it was possible it would not be necessary to “spend this much money to solve the problem.”

Cofske said “We rely on the experts,” and that everything DPC engineers do has to be approved by the state engineer. Cofske said the town will suffer if it does not fix the infrastructure. “We need to fix the line, we need to upgrade

Wheelwright, we need to upgrade Gilbertville,” he said. “If we build up Gilbertville, in the end we build up the entire community.”

Pumping station concerns

Resident Ann Barnes said the construction of a pumping station adjacent to the common came as a “complete surprise” to her as it is a historical district and also a wetland. Prickett said the pumping station had to be in the “general area,” but was open to a suggestion by a resident to locate it near the tennis courts adjacent to the Paige Memorial Library. Prickett explained that the structure would be a 12-foot x 16-foot building.

Prickett said the building could be designed to fit in with the historical architecture of other buildings on the Common. Hanson said people around the center of town would not “go for it.” Cofske said she understands, but she also thinks about the Gilbertville residents who have had to deal with sewer odors and how important this station would be to alleviate that issue.

2021 Garden Bed Pricing

2'x4'x11" Standard Ground Beds
Made with 5/4x6 Alaskan Yellow Cedar
Kits come with corners, screws, and bit for 11" tall beds

	Kit	Assembled
Wooden corners	\$59	\$69
Galvanized Corners	\$89	\$99

Heavy Duty Kits with 2x6" AYC lumber
2x4' = \$65 4x4' = \$95 4x6' = \$105 4x8' = \$125
Kits come with wooden corners, screws, and bit for 11" tall beds

2x4' Elevated Beds
5/4x6 AYC frame, with Douglas Fir legs
Fully Assembled = \$240 Pre-cut kits = \$175

Build your own using our lumber!
AYC lumber has the same decay resistance as Wester Red Cedar And the same strength as Douglas Fir. A perfect wood for garden beds!
Rough Sawn Alaskan Yellow Cedar 2x8":
8' = \$28.80 12' = \$43.20 16' = \$57.60
Utility grade AYC construction lumber:
5/4x6" decking = \$1.69/LF. 2x6's = \$2.25/LF.
Note: additional charge for any extra cutting to length

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\$6.99/bag. Bag = 1CuFt
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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

About working while collecting early Social Security benefits

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 in August of this year. If I start drawing Social Security on my 65th birthday, how will my Social Security check be affected if I continue working at my full-time job, and take home \$1,380 every two weeks, until I reach my full retirement age? *Signed: Working Senior*

Dear Working Senior: Social Security has an “earnings test” which applies to anyone who collects benefits before they have reached their full retirement age, or FRA. There is also a “first-year rule,” which applies when someone claims benefits mid-year, prior to their full retirement age. The first-year rule says that if you exceed a monthly limit you aren’t entitled to benefits for that month, and that applies for each remaining month in the first year, after your benefits start. Then, starting in 2022, you’ll be subject to an annual earnings limit. Since you will reach your full retirement age in 2022, your annual limit that year will be a bit more than the 2021 FRA-year limit of \$50,520 (the earnings limits change annually).

If you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65, for the remainder of 2021 you’ll be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,580. And if your gross earnings for each remaining month in 2021 are more than that, and yours would be, then you won’t be entitled to Social Security benefits for the remaining months of 2021. For clarity, you would also have the option to request that the annual limit (\$18,960 for 2021) be used instead of the monthly limit, but at your earnings level you would still be required to repay all of your 2021 benefits, using the annual limit would require you to repay \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

When you file your income taxes next year, Social Security will discover you exceeded the 2021 earnings limit and require you to repay all benefits received in 2021. By “repay,” I mean they will give you an option to repay everything they paid you in 2021 in a lump sum, or they will withhold future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the monthly limit. Alternatively, you could request a less severe repayment plan, but you would need to negotiate that directly with Social Security.

Essentially, if you plan to continue working full time in 2021, it may be wise to simply delay claiming your Social Security for a while, because you will end up needing to return any benefits paid in 2021. You could still claim in August and then inform them you will exceed the limit; in which case they will simply withhold your benefits. But in any case, you won’t be eligible for Social Security benefits in 2021 at the earnings level you shared.

As explained above, your 2022 earnings limit will be more than the 2021 limit of \$50,520 for those achieving FRA, and if you claim benefits to start in January 2022 that higher annual limit would apply. If you’re still working full time at the same earnings level, you probably will not exceed the 2022 annual limit, so your benefits wouldn’t be affected. But if you get a raise and exceed the 2022 limit, Social Security will want back \$1 for every \$3 you exceeded the limit by the FRA-year rate.

Of course, since the earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, you might also consider just waiting until your FRA to claim Social Security and completely avoid the earnings test.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email sadvvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GUEST COLUMN

Barre resident called to report he has a northern mockingbird and a Carolina wren visiting his yard.

The northern mockingbird is the only mockingbird commonly found in North America. They are primarily permanent residents, but birds in the north may move south short distances during harsh weather. It is about eight to 10 inches long. It is a gray bird, with a long tail and white underbelly. It has a dark eye line and two white wing bars and dark wing tips and tail.

The female lays three to four and sometimes up to six greenish to blue gray eggs with brown spots. They build the nest in dense shrub or tree, usually about three to 10 feet above the ground. The male builds most of the foundation and the female puts in the lining. The nest has a bulky foundation of twigs, supporting an open of weeds, grass, leaves lined with fine material such as rootlets, moss, ani-

Cabbage conundrums

I always feel a bit guilty on St. Patrick’s Day. What kind of Irish girl am I if I don’t particularly like corned beef and cabbage? Most of my life I found the meat too salty and the cabbage... well, too cabbagey. The past couple of years, though, in an effort to help my gut microbiome replenish itself after too many Lyme antibiotics, I began taking an interest in fermented foods. Sauerkraut has become one of my favorites.

Last year I met a woman at a Grange talk who had a basement full of sauerkraut she made herself. Intrigued and always up for a homesteading challenge, I decided then and there that I was going to grow enough cabbage to fill my basement, too. The only problem was that I never had much success with this vegetable. Sure, I’ve enjoyed a homegrown head or two, but a cabbage farmer I am not. Thugs, slugs, bugs and cracks, in that particular order, have always thwarted my best efforts. Read on to learn about my experiences as I went from growing a half dozen cabbage plants to over 30.

I sowed my cabbage seeds indoors off heat the second week of April last year. When the first true leaf appeared, I transplanted the seedlings into individual cells of six packs and watered with a liquid fertilizer diluted to half strength. Bright light but cool temperatures grew stocky plants, and by May 15 they were ready to be hardened off. They were installed into the garden a week before Memorial Day. Most of the plants went into one of my rock-edged raised beds. I thought I was so smart. First I installed three-foot hardware cloth to

keep out the bunnies (thugs), then I laid soaker hoses to and fro, knowing how these beds can bake in the heat and dry out daily. Cabbages aren’t what you would call heat-loving. If that wasn’t enough, I then covered the whole thing with a floating row cover, anticipating that the cabbage looper, the cabbage worm and the imported cabbage worm (all bugs) would visit and demolish my seedlings in no time. All my bases were covered, literally, and things were going great. The leaves began to pucker and curl: the seedlings were on their way to making heads!

But alas, I began to notice holes in the leaves. The kind of holes where you can see a shiny trail. Slugs had found my cabbage patch. Sometimes there were even dark gray slugs still attached to the leaves. Big ones, little ones, yuck! I began hand picking furiously, every morning at sunrise and again just before dark. Things finally began to look up and then the aphids (yet more bugs) hit. Did you ever see gray aphids in such an abundance that they look more like a waxy coating than individual bugs? Yessiree, that was my cabbage patch. I think, because this set-up of mine only required that I turn on the soaker hose and not lift the cover and inspect my plants, things got way out of control. Had I seen the first few aphids I could have maybe blown them off with a spray of water, or waited until evening and sprayed with soap to smother the buggers. But once heads form and the aphids are within the overlapping leaves, you might as well call the party over and plant a cover crop instead. Live and learn.



Thankfully, this is not the end of the story. There were six cabbage transplants that I couldn’t fit in the raised bed. I planted them at the end of my broccoli row in the main garden. Although plagued with a few slugs, and even a few bugs, I was able to harvest each head and made my first ever batch of sauerkraut, totally just about two gallons worth! As my bounty dwindles near winter’s end, I am already strategizing this year’s cabbage crop. I am going to try growing an early variety to try and beat the worst of the bugs.

Although still not a fan of corned beef, cabbage has surely has found its place in my palate and in my garden.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

GUEST COLUMN

America rests on people doing the right thing

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

As the events of the past few months have unfolded, I have often found myself wondering what our founders would have made of it all. Impossible to know, of course, but they had plenty of insight to offer.

In particular, I keep returning to these lines from James Madison. He delivered them during the Virginia convention to ratify the Constitution, arguing that the surest safeguard against legislators and a government bent on malfeasance is the people themselves. “I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom,” he said. “Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we are in a wretched situation. No theoretical checks—no form of government can render us secure.” We depend, he said, not on the virtue of the people we elect, but of “the people who are to choose them.”

That pretty much sums it up, doesn’t it? Our country rests on the faith that we the people will do the right thing. The design of our government may be remarkable, but it does not matter nearly as much as the qualities of the American people and their capacity to make it work. If we do not step up, if we do not invest our time and energy and abilities in making the system work, it will not.

One of the remarkable aspects of the founding era was that a relative handful of people, in a country that did not even number 4 million at the time, developed a constitution with very little to go on and then made it work. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and a few others had the skills, knowledge and insight to hammer out, debate and craft a system from the ground up, then to articulate it and persuade the political elite that this republican form of government could work.

And what may have been most impressive was that they had confidence in the notion that people had the capacity to govern them-



selves. Yes, they hedged, both in the elaborate balance of power they built and in who actually got to vote. But they also created a system that, over the centuries, was capable of expanding the franchise and delivering a more equitable, broader voice in government because that was the idea at its core.

A key aspect of that idea, as Madison articulated, is that virtue is part of republican government. This sounds strange to say in the modern world. We tend to think of “virtue” as moral probity or honesty or integrity. Madison and the other founders had something more encompassing in mind. They thought of virtue as including a sense of civic self-sacrifice: the ability to overcome self-interest and act for the benefit of the broader community. And they expected it not just in political leaders, but in citizens themselves.

What may be most striking is that they had confidence in the American people to carry out this grand experiment and believed in the patriotism and capacity of those people to serve as protectors of civil liberties and of the due process of democracy. I could not help but think of that faith in the wake of last November’s election, as countless poll workers and elections officials in towns and cities and states around the country stoically carried

on their work to the best of their ability in the face of unrelenting antagonism.

We remain in a time of great testing for the system Madison and his generation created. Though it is a remarkable constitutional design, created during a period of enormous change, turmoil and confusion, they understood that the whole thing would fail if the people lacked the capacity to make it work. A lot of Americans have lost trust in the government, in the system as a whole, and in one another. This is not without reason. But it helps to look back and remember that everything rests on us—on our ability to choose our leaders wisely, to work with one another and to reward the founders’ faith that ordinary people can, by dint of their efforts, make this a more perfect union.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

By Ellenor Downer



mal hair or plant down. The female incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young. The young leave the nest about 12 days after hatching. Mockingbirds have two to three broods per year.

Mockingbirds feed mainly on insects and berries. It feeds mainly on insects in late spring and summer and relies on berries and fruit in fall and winter.

The mockingbird was often captured for

sale as a pet from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. As a result, it became scarce along much of the northern edge of its range. After the stopping of the cage bird trade, mockingbirds became common once again. The planting of multiflora rose, also known as living fence, was partly responsible for its spread in the northeast as mockingbirds liked the berries and used it for nesting sites.

Belchertown bluebirds

A Belchertown woman emailed about bluebirds. She said, “Just this winter, we have counted as many as nine bluebirds at once around our feeder and have them in our yard, gardens and woods at all times of the year.” Several people are reporting seeing bluebirds. They are always a welcome sight and in the sunlight, the blue is so vivid.

Carolina wren

I also have a Carolina wren, which comes

to my feeders regularly. Early this week, it was eating seeds off the ground. A bluejay landed on the ground near it. Often, the smaller birds leave when the bluejays come, but not this wren. It held its ground and the bluejay did not chase it away.

Bird watching

My cat, Rocky, likes to the watch the birds and squirrels at the feeders. If I ask him if he wants to watch the birds, he reaches up for me to pick him up and bring him to the window. This is a morning ritual with us. Today, there was a red squirrel under the tray feeder. He especially likes to watch the juncos.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

WARE RIVER NEWS

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Eileen Kennedy
ekennedy@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Publications, Inc.
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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and “Your Turn” guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
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or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Dogs must be licensed by March 31; late fees begin April 1

WARE – State law requires that all dogs six months should be licensed.

Ware Town Hall remains closed to the public, however town employees are working every day and will process individual's requests to license whether the information is left in the drop box located outside the lower level offices or sent to the town clerk's office by U.S. Mail. However, dogs must be licensed before Wednesday, March 31.

On April 1, there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in addition to the license fee.

If a resident's dog was licensed last year, check the paper licensed issued at that time, which includes the following:

Each dog listed separately by name.

The expiration of the rabies vaccine listed per dog.

The information about the fee determination, such as male/female or spayed/neutered.

If a resident's dog has a current rabies vaccination and it is not expired, it is not necessary to supply the rabies certificate.

If your dog has received a new rabies vaccination since the dog

was licensed in 2020, it will be necessary to include the new certificate, which will be returned to you when the license is issued.

All requests to license must include any changes to the information on file with the town clerk's office, such as owner name and address, and telephone number.

All requests must also include a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to return the license and tags to the owner. Be sure to place sufficient postage on the envelope or the post may not deliver it back to the recipient.

The mail address for the town clerk's office is Town Clerk, 126 Main St., Suite F, Ware, MA, 01082.

Anyone licensing their dog for the first time, the following information is needed: rabies certificate that lists the dog as being altered and a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope.

Dog license fees are the same as last year: male/female, \$10, spayed/neutered, \$8.

Any resident who did not license their dog in 2020 will need to call the town directly at 413-967-9648, ext. 177, to discuss the amount owed.

SelectBoard candidates forum set for March 27

WARE – There will be a Ware SelectBoard candidates' forum on March 27, at 10 a.m., which will be recorded by Ware Community Television. There will be no audience and Ware TV will put the recorded forum online later the same day.

The four candidates are Alan Whitney, Keith Kruckas, Caitlin Maureen McCarthy and Josh Kusnierz.

The Ware River News will be developing questions and is also asking residents to send in questions they think are important to ask the candidates to ekennedy@turley.com.

A Turley Publications employee will be asking the questions, and a story about the forum will be in the April 1 edition of the Ware River News.

The Town Election is scheduled for April 12.

Vaccines, food insecurity, mental health, substance use discussed

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Community Coalition and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance recently held their annual meeting with state elected officials, including state senators, state representatives and district attorneys, on via Zoom.

The topic of COVID-19 vaccinations was brought up by social service providers, such as Ware's Council on Aging Director John Zienowicz, and by elected officials.

Zienowicz asked the legislators as a group how to get more vaccinations out to Western Mass as the state government diverts vaccination supplies meant for Western Mass to large distribution sites in the eastern part of the state.

"We're trying to address our most vulnerable seniors and get those people to those appointments to get the vaccine," said Zienowicz, but the process is made more difficult when vaccine doses are shifted away from the area.

State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, and State Rep. Todd Smola, R-Warren, pulled no punches in their

assessments of the state's COVID-19 vaccination program.

"This rollout has been a complete disaster," said Gobi. "And it falls at the feet of the governor and Secretary (of Health and Human Services Marylou) Sudders." She said only 1/12 of the 6.9 million residents have received both of their two vaccine shots so far. "We've got a long way to go," she said. "If he doesn't want to be partners (in the process) then he'll take all the blame." Gobi said legislators found about about how the vaccination program would unfold in the media, with no details from him or his administration ahead of time. "This is not the way it should be," she said.

Large mass vaccination sites are not helpful for rural communities with transportation issues, she said, pointing to Palmer and Oakham as small communities getting vaccinations done. "This isn't going to be done from Fenway," she said.

Smola agreed, saying, "I and my colleagues make no apologies with what has happened with this vaccine rollout. As much as the people at the state level said, 'yea, we're ready to do this,' clearly they weren't."

He said he and other legislators are on the phone every day of the week at

all hours of the day and night trying to get the Department of Health and the administration to realize mass vaccine sites are not the answer for many small rural communities with transportation issues.

Smola said legislators hope the rollout evolves so it is able to really help rural communities in Central and Western Mass. "We can't accept a really bad rollout and administration of the vaccines," he said. He and the other legislators will continue applying pressure so that "rural territories like ours do not get screwed in the process."

He also pointed to leadership by Gobi on food insecurity issues and by State Rep. Susannah Whipp, R-Athol, on mental health issues, both of which were hugely important as area providers worked to help people during COVID-19.

Northwestern District Attorney Michael Sullivan thanked the Gobi, Smola and Whipp for working so hard 24/7 through the pandemic to make sure people had the basics, including food.

Smola also urged everyone to direct those having issues with unemployment in his district to call his office.

2021 Annual Town Census arriving in homes

WARE – The Annual Town Census forms should arrive soon for all households in Ware. Please take the time to review the information, make corrections, add those residents of your household not listed with a name, date of birth and occupation.

Residents should remember when they respond to the Annual Census, their information is proof of their residency should it ever be needed. The community as a whole also benefits from the census; grants and transportation reimbursement are generally based on data that is available from the census forms and used by state as well as other agencies to not only reimburse, but fund programs that benefit our community.

Due to COVID-19, please either drop off the form in the mail envelope provided and return by mailing or using the town's blue drop-box clearly marked – Town Clerk Official Business.

Instructions and information for responses are available on the back of the form. Included in this census mailing is information on how to license a dog. Please do not include the request for a dog license, or a tax bill in this envelope.

Remember also that voter status cannot be changed on a census form; this must be done by voter registration available online at www.ma.gov – Elections and Voting. Voter registration forms are also available at the U.S. Post Office on West Street.



Courtesy photo

HANNAH FANELLI RECEIVES ACCEPTANCE, SCHOLARSHIP TO POPE FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

GILBERTVILLE – St. Aloysius Catholic School eighth-grader Hannah Fanelli recently received her acceptance letter to Pope Francis Preparatory School in Springfield. And to add to her excitement, she was presented with one of the Aquinas Scholarships, awarded to the five students with the highest national composite scores from the December placement exams. Hannah is the daughter of Roberta McQuaid and her husband, Richard Fanelli.

Community outreach coordinator chosen

Grant still needs youth engagement coordinator

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance announced at its meeting Monday it has hired Abigail Duda to be the community outreach person its Prevention Partnership grant. She is also the Ware Regional Recovery Center coordinator.

"I am thrilled to work with this great group of people on this outstanding grant," Duda said. The WRRP, which will offer services to those in recovery or seeking help with recovery, will be located at 6 South St., in the Millyard complex, she said. The center was originally due to open above Hannah Devine's restaurant on Main Street, but that space didn't work out.

QHSUA facilitator Gail Gramarossa has become the coordinator for the \$1.5 million federal grant aimed at preventing drug use of marijuana, nicotine and alcohol among youth and young adults.

Quaboag Hills area towns, including Ware, Palmer and Belchertown.

"That's not to say if other drug use such as opioids or other drugs emerge we won't address them because we will," Gramarossa said.

An epidemiologist has also been hired and a youth engagement coordinator continues to be sought to

work with school-aged young children.

Gramarossa said the grant will be very helpful because it is flexible enough for the group to also work on defining substance use for those 19 to 26, and how to prevent people in that age bracket from starting drug use and to help them end use. Most prevention grants are aimed at school-aged children, she said.

The grant is for five years and the group will receive \$300,000 a year to focus on their work.

It was the awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success grant and will focus on youth 18 and under as well as young adults 19 to 25-years-old, she said. It will use evidence-based curricula, she said.

Gramarossa said it was important to make sure the work of this grant, as well as two others, a federal Drug-Free Communities grant and a

STOP grant, which focuses on alcohol use prevention, are monitored to be sure there is no overlapping in the work of all three grants.

"We need to coordinate with all of us working together," she said. "We need to not be duplicating our work, but integrate what we're doing together."

She also said it was time to apply to continue the five-year Drug-Free Communities grant as the first five years are up this year. The alliance can now apply for a second five-year grant.

Narcan

Go Purple Quabbin Youth Initiative Program **Director** Nekk Jenkins said the distribution of Narcan, which temporarily blocks the effect of opioids on the body, is continuing and she is providing training over Zoom. The distribution of Narcan will be worked out with deliveries to those who have received training or pickup by them. In the near future there may also be locked boxes with Narcan in them available in the community.

Corned beef dinner set for March 17

WARE – A St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets.

The dinner includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots

and bread for a \$12 donation per dinner. Take-out only is available. Please call 413-967-6100 to reserve meals with a name, the number of dinners wanted and a phone number to call. All proceeds benefit the mission and ministry of the parish.

MLH from page 1

The letter goes on to say that ambulances will now have longer to travel, affecting area EMS providers, such as the Ware Fire Department, which will have to travel farther and be out-of-town for longer periods of time. This will become worse when work to essentially replace the Three Mile Bridge on Route 32 in Ware, near Old Belchertown Road, begins and continues over several years.

It also says that longer trips will mean more wear and tear on area ambulances, and that to restock ambulances with necessary controlled substances will mean going out of town to do so.

"The closure creates the potential loss of a sanctioned landing zone for medivac helicopter currently at the BMLH site," it reads. "The region requests that the helicopter facility be kept and maintained."

Building demo or reuse

Officials also want a full review of the conditions and costs associated with the current state of the property, with a walk through the property with leaders, showing the maintenance and environmental concerns. Provide maintenance costs and estimates for needed building repairs.

They also want Baystate to help

Ware determine the best use of the site and to pay for a consultant that helps the town plan the reuse. The letter states that the "process should be community support for a vision of the re-use of the site, documented by concept plans and supporting data.

Lewis Gilbert Trust

The letter also asks Baystate to offer transparency around the Lewis Gilbert Trust, which was created to form the hospital.

"Baystate Health should provide all relevant documents to

the town, and allow their attorneys to work with town counsel to review the requirements of the trust," it reads. "The regional community should be aware and understanding of the trust's requirements and resources. It is not right that these resources should be re-directed to other facilities if the trust is not clearly being followed. The Gilbert Family invested a great amount in the welfare and health of the residents of Ware and the region. Baystate should work to continue and enhance that investment."



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IT'S BABCI'S BIRTHDAY!

WARE — Jennie Kapinos, aka Babci — Happy 100th birthday on March 12 from your family.



Quaboag Regional Middle High School students were out Saturday morning with their Assistant Principal Anthony Cacace. Left to right are Isabella Pollucci, Kendall Lariviere, Hannah Nemerors, Lily Potvin, Isabelle Burgess, Lexie Cacace, Alyssa Abbe and Joline Wheeler.

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CLEAN-UP from page 9

Fijol said he would be hauling away the trash to dispose of it as the town said it would cost too much to have the trash disposed of at the landfill, she said.

Students from the Quaboag Regional Middle High School were on hand helping out with members from the school's National Honor Society and

National Junior Honor Society doing community service.

On New Reed Street, Patty Goncorz and David Goncorz were busy picking up trash.

"We live here and this looks like a disgrace," said Patty Goncorz, as she gestured to the trash along both sides of the road of what is otherwise a haven for wildlife.

The couple said they like to come to that area to watch the

eagles and other birds.

"We're going to be picking up tires," David Goncorz said, pointing to where there was recently an air conditioner.

He also thanked Fijol for agreeing to get rid of the trash once it's collected.

On Old West Brookfield Road, Quaboag Regional Middle High School students were busy picking up trash with their Assistant Principal

Anthony Cacace.

"It's good to have them out here making the town a better place," said Cacace as the group approached their school.

Several students said they were fulfilling their community service hours as part of their memberships in the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

All participants wore masks.

TREE from page 3

getting established and the rainfall just isn't enough," Henshaw said. She added that property owners will also receive a two-page instructional on how to care for their tree.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of

America, Ware is ranked first in the "Asthma Capitals" of Massachusetts. In a press release announcing the grant, EQLT stated "Trees directly remove pollutants from the air around them, absorbing gases and pollutants through their respiration and by catching particulate matter on their leaves and

branches."

EQLT said they will work with Ware community service organizations such as Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center, Community Health Network Association members and others, along with departments and staff of the town of Ware, the school district and other community members, to determine the best locations for tree planting.

"The goal of the project is to plant as many of the trees on res-

idential, school, playground and park locations as possible, along with other venues that provide overall community benefits," the press release stated.

The grant also covers the hiring of seasonal laborers to assist the arborist in planting the trees. They are currently accepting applications for these positions and an application form can be found at eqlt.org. Interested applicants can contact EQLT at 413-477-8229, leaving their name and phone number and Henshaw will contact them.

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Brownies upset by Ware in final game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—There were several memorable moments for the Ware girls' varsity basketball team during the final week of the season. One of those moments took place on Feb. 27.

The Lady Indians, who are a Division 4 team, closed out the home schedule with a 44-35 victory over the Agawam Lady Brownies, who are a Division 1 squad.

"We beat a Division 1 team in our final high school basketball game in this gym, which was our goal," said Ware senior Aidyn Welsh. "We just gave it our all and it's an amazing feeling. This is definitely one of our biggest wins of the season."

Ware, who finished the season with an 8-5 overall record, played their final four games of the season on consecutive nights.



Submitted photos
Amelia Bonnayer reaches out for the loose ball.



Audrey LaValley is closely covered as she attempts a pass.

The final stretch began with the Lady Indians pulling out a 43-42 win at Ludlow High School, last Tuesday night. The hero of that game was senior Olivia Vadnais who hit a shot at the buzzer to win it.

The six Ware seniors were honored during an emotional senior night celebration held before the start of last Wednesday's home

game versus Pathfinder, which was a double-digit victory.

The Ware seniors, who were honored, are Amelia Bonnayer, Lexie Orszulak, Audrey LaValley, Chelsea Orszulak, Vadnais, and Welsh, who became a member of the elite 1,000-point club on February 11.

"I've been coaching the seniors for a very long time and I'm really going to miss coaching them a lot," said Ware head Dan Orszulak. "We've been a very successful basketball team during the past couple of years, but I'm looking forward to a new challenge next year."

The Lady Indians wrapped up their season with a loss at Amherst Regional, last Friday night.

The six Ware seniors, who won more than fifty games during their outstanding varsity career's, combined to score 41 points in the home finale against Agawam.

LaValley led the way offensively for the home team, as she posted a double-double with a game-high 14 points and 10 rebounds. She scored 9 of her points during the second half.

"The seniors have been playing basketball together for many years and we've come so far," LaValley said. "The past four years went by really fast and it's hard to believe that I won't be playing basketball for this team next year."

Just like LaValley, Welsh also scored 9 of her 12 points during the second half. She was also credited with 4 assists.

Chelsea Orszulak, who played one her best games of the season, scored 8 points and she had 11 rebounds.

Vadnais added 5 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists.

The Lady Brownies (7-6) struggled offensively in the first half, especially during the second quarter when they were outscored 14-6 by the Lady Indians.

"We didn't play very well offensively for about a five-minute stretch during the second quarter, which turned out to be the differ-



Olivia Vadnais goes for rebound.

ence in the final outcome," said Agawam head coach Tim Murphy. "It set the tone for the rest of the game. Other than that span, I thought it was an evenly played game. We really didn't know very much about Ware, but they're a very talented basketball team."

The Agawam head coach had to deal with injuries to several key players throughout the season.

"We didn't know at times who would be able to play in a game," Murphy said. "We did have a few players step up and play very well."

One of the Agawam injured players is senior Jessica D'Amours, who scored close to

Please see **FINAL**, page 8

Football season ready to get underway

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – For the first time ever, it will be football season in March and April, and teams will be playing into the warm instead of playing into the cold.

Rivalries will be renewed and the many games local fans love to see will take place over the next two months over the course of a six-week modified schedule.

While football was not played on Thanksgiving, some of the weather teams will play in during the first few weeks will feel like Thanksgiving. And some of the classic thanksgiving matchups will take place, including Agawam versus West Springfield, Chicopee versus Chicopee Comprehensive, and East Longmeadow versus Longmeadow.

Another big matchup scheduled between smaller schools is a classic rivalry between Palmer and Ware. That game is usually the culmination of the Tri-County League schedule for both teams in the fall, but will be a great way for the two teams to renew acquaintances since no football was played last fall.

Minnechaug will have a full slate of games. Minnechaug has been a strong team in Division 3 the past few years, playing twice in the finals in recent years against powerful Central High School. They will also meet several other rivals, like Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

Another team that is normally part of the power-

Please see **FOOTBALL**, page 8

Skowyra headed for University of New England

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—One of the places that Shea Skowyra enjoys to vacation with his family is Maine.

Skowyra, a senior at Quabbin Regional, will be spending a lot more time in the Pine Tree State during the next four years. He will be a freshman at the University of New England, which is located in Biddeford, Maine, next fall and is planning to be a member of the

Nor'easters men's basketball team next winter.

"The University of New England was definitely one of the school's that I was interested in attending and it was an awesome feeling when I heard back from them telling me that I've been accepted," Skowyra said. "I've vacationed in Maine with my family and it's a very nice area. My family will be able to come watch me play basketball, which is a very important thing to me."

Shea's biggest supporters have always been his parents (Briana and Tom) and his older brother (Tucker).

Skowyra, who lives in Hardwick, was one of the seven seniors on the Quabbin boys' varsity basketball team this past season. He was a co-captain along with senior Brendan Whitelaw.

"Two of the hardest working players and focused young men on and off the court," said Panthers head coach Dennis Dextradeur.

"They led us to another winning season in an extremely competitive pod. The influence and example they provided was immeasurable and I am looking forward to see them succeed further beyond high school in the goals they have set."

The other Panthers seniors were Ryan Wagher, Devin Pride, Ryan Kowal, Jake Sherblom, and Nick Farrell.

Please see **SKOWYRA**, page 8



Submitted photo

Cam McDermott serves a lot of roles on his racing team.

Pioneers conclude winter season

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School girls basketball team got off to a late start due to COVID-19 issues, but were able

to fit an abbreviated schedule into February, playing in seven games. The Pioneers, unfortunately, went winless in the games, struggling

to generate offense in most cases. Pathfinder now has the ability to participate in football in the Fall 2 season.



Cordelia Hageman starts her way down the court.



The Pathfinder girls basketball team discusses strategy during a timeout.



Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Stephanie Koslik looks for a different angle to approach the basket.

McDermott balancing variety of roles in 2021

SEEKONK – Whether it's been as a crew chief, spotter, driver, mechanic or in another role, Cam McDermott has built quite the resume in short-track racing. He started his career driving in quarter midgets, quickly moved to the Thompson Speedway Modified division, where he won the championship -- and from there, his career has blossomed in a variety of different directions.

For 2021, McDermott is going to be quite the busy guy once again -- but his preparations for the season includes getting the No. 8 Maybury Material Handling machine ready for competition in the six Tri Track Open Modified Series events. McDermott will be behind the wheel of the family-owned machine to join a talent-filled group of competitors on the Tri Track circuit.

"We're mainly going to focus on the Tri Track stuff this year, transitioning into that after focusing on the Stafford Motor Speedway Open Modified races the last few years," McDermott said. "The competition with Tri Track is always great. I want to go out there and compete against the best -- I love doing that. On the ownership side of Tri Track, with what Wayne (Darling) and Ed (Bennett) are doing, it's good for the racers and the teams."

Outside of driving, McDermott will be working as crew chief for Eddie Harvey Racing on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, with his close friend Woody Pitkat, driving. McDermott is ready to tackle that role after more than a decade working with the legendary Pasteryak family, where

Please see **FINAL**, page 8

Obituaries

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Death notices

Korzec, Georgette, A.
Died: March 6, 2021
Funeral services are private

Shea, James F.
Died: March 2, 2021
Funeral Mass: March 6
All Saints Church
Ware

Stachowicz, Steven M.
Died: Feb. 11, 2021
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Georgette A. Korzec

WEST WARREN – Georgette A. (Raymond) Korzec, 90, of West Warren, died on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at her home with her family by her side.

She leaves her sons, Mark Korzec, and his wife, Judi, of Hardwick, and Matthew Korzec, and his wife, Lisa, of Warren; two daughters, Martha Louvitakis, of West Warren, and Michelle Holmgren, and her husband, Bill, of Warren; seven grandchildren, Sam Louvitakis, and his fiancé, Savannah Craig, Emily Petruzzi, and her husband, JJ, Jacob Korzec, Celina Korzec, Stephanie Korzec-Miller, and her husband, Mark, and Helen Korzec, as well as two great-grandchildren, Evan and Isabella. She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Walter A. Korzec, and her grandson, George Louvitakis III. She was born in West Springfield, daughter of the late George D. Raymond and Helen D’Ambra, and lived in Warren most of her life.

Along with Walter and son-in-law, Bill, they owned and operated the Korzec Insurance Agency in West Warren since 1980. In her younger years, she resided in Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Department of the Navy as a records keeper. Over the years, some of the other occupations which she held were as a telephone operator for the former New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, a secretary at Warren Pumps, and as a secretary for the



president of Warren Savings Bank. Georgette was active in town and enjoyed giving back and volunteering. She served on the Board of Directors at the West Warren Library, the Warren Rural Improvement Association, and the Rotary of West Brookfield. She was active in fundraising events for Baystate Mary Lane, as a member of the Auxiliary, and as a volunteer in the Gift Shop.

Georgette had a strong faith in God, belonging to St. Stanislaus Church in West Warren, where she taught CCD, was a member of the Parish Council and volunteered for their annual Polish Picnic. She was also a member of All Saints Church in Ware. Georgette credits her long and well fulfilled life to God and the love of her family. Despite being busy, her family and faith came first, and she was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who will be greatly missed.

Due to COVID restrictions, funeral services for Georgette will be held privately. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations in Georgette’s name to: St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA, 01031 or All Saints Church “High Altar Window Project,” 60 South Street, Ware, MA 01082.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant Street, in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

James F. Shea

WARE – James F. Shea, 88, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Jim was a lifelong resident of Ware, born to the late Edward and Stephanie (Jezyk) Shea.

He graduated from Ware High School where he was captain of the football team and was awarded the Marine Corps League Trophy for sportsmanship on and off the field; displaying qualities of leadership, integrity and a strong work ethic that became even more evident throughout his life. After high school Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving as staff sergeant during the Korean War before attending Northeastern University and graduating from Boston University, College of Engineering. He worked on various projects as a civil engineer, but was most proud to have finished out his career at the Massachusetts State Police Academy, retiring in 1996.

Jim was an active member of the Ware community serving as town tax assessor and was instrumental in the planning and rehabilitation of a new senior center. For years he enjoyed maintaining the family home he built on Fisherick Road, with his much adored colliers by his side, a daily coffee with friends at Crystal Springs, and time spent with his wife and family at their house on Cape Cod. Jim was



a funny, kind and generous man who had a deep love for his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Carolyn (Galanska) Shea; his four daughters, Maureen Kos, of Ludlow, Beth Powers, and her husband, Mike, of Clinton, Connecticut, Cathy Shea, of Sandwich, and Margaret Shea, of Ware; six grandchildren, Marybeth Petracone, and husband, John, of Ware, Lauren O’Brien, and husband, Marty, of South Hadley, Emily Massey, and husband, Scott, of Rotonda West, Florida, Katy Green, and husband, Rick, of South Hadley, and Olivia Powers and Ryan Powers of Clinton, Connecticut; and five great-grandchildren, Dominic, Caroline, Andrew, Bennett and Wesley. He is predeceased by his parents, six siblings and his cherished grandson, Andrew.

Jim will be remembered as a hard working, jack-of-all-trades, family man who believed in living each day to its fullest. He is loved and missed by many.

A funeral Mass was held on Saturday, March 6, at 10 a.m. at All Saints Church, in Ware, followed by burial at Saint Williams Cemetery. For more information please visit curranobrien.com.

McDERMOTT from page 7

he recently was the crew chief for Chris Pasteryak. Back when McDermott was winning races and a championship in the Thompson Modifieds, McDermott was connected with the Pasteryak family, started helping Carl on his car, and from there, became a major part of the operation. During the last decade, he says he completed just about every job there is on a Modified race team, minus maybe being the jackman or gasman on a pit stop. He also has experience working with Woody Pitkat in Pitkat’s championship run at Stafford Motor Speedway, and when Pitkat was competing for Buzz Chew Racing on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour as a spotter.

McDermott’s driving experience also includes competing in the Lite Modified division at Thompson, where he was the champion, and at Stafford Motor Speedway, where he competed in the SK Light Modifieds and their premier SK Modified division.

And that’s just scratching the surface of his resume.

“It just grew from the Thompson Modified days and it got better and better,” McDermott said of his relationship with the Pasteryak family. “They are just a great family to be around. Between the Pasteryak family and my dad, I’ve learned everything I know about racing from them. The Pasteryak’s pay attention to every single detail. It’s such a great atmosphere to be able to learn from them and now transition it into my own car. I’ve been able to take everything I’ve learned and just put it into what’s best for me.”

With experience with the Pasteryak family, and now some offseason time with Harvey preparing for the new season, McDermott feels 2021 might be his best ever behind the wheel. His driving resume speaks for itself, with multiple wins and championships, but he’s lacking something he’s trying hard to get: a win in a Tour-Type Modified. He hopes to end that drought with Tri Track this year.

“It was definitely a learn-

ing curve jumping from the SK Modified to the Tour-Type Modified, I think the Tour-Type Modified really suits my style a lot better than the SK does,” McDermott said. “I’m not nearly as aggressive as everyone else to be dominant in the SK. Paying it out of your own pocket, it makes you definitely consider everything. As a family-owned team with my parents, in-laws, and a few close friends and good sponsors helping us out, and all the experience I have in a variety of different roles, it should be a good year.”

As most others, his goal is to come home with the car in one piece, have a solid run, and continue to build a notebook in hopes of visiting Victory Lane with Tri Track. But he knows the level of talent the Tri Track field will offer in 2021 -- ranging from former series champions to Whelen Modified Tour champions, race winners, rising stars and more, will be tough to compete with. His immediate goal is going to be to qualify for the races, then worry about the rest once the green flag

drops.

“I have a lot of experience coming from many different directions. I wouldn’t say that I know everything -- no one does in racing,” McDermott said. “There’s always a learning curve for everyone with new stuff coming out, new technology... but driving-wise I feel like I’m almost there. A good year for me would be to make all of the races, first. There is so much competition, and just qualifying is going to be difficult. If we can get into the races, then get some top-fives, I feel like that would be good. If you can get to the top-five, you can compete for wins.”

Tri Track will visit three of New England’s historic race tracks -- Monadnock Speedway, Seekonk Speedway and Star Speedway during the season -- and McDermott does have limited experience with all of them, driving previously in Tri Track races, where he does have top-10 finishes.

“I’ve run all three tracks before and I like Star a lot, we always seem to be really competitive there,” McDermott said. “We ran

Seekonk at the Haunted Hundred in 2019 and we were competitive until the last lap, when we went through the infield in the middle of chaos in front of us. I like both of those tracks a lot. I still haven’t gotten my hands around Monadnock yet. The one time we went there we were fast, but broke a trailing-arm bracket, so we don’t really know how that day would have ended. My dad grew up at Seekonk -- he ran Street Stocks there and I grew up in the grandstands there. I’m looking forward to running there again.”

Without his parents, in-laws, a few close friends and sponsors like Maybury Material Handling, Douglas Battery, Richard Green Insurance and McDermott Motorsports Services, McDermott wouldn’t be in the position he is now. The support from his wife -- Lauren -- who raced previously herself, has been a major player in his career. He’s hoping to balance his past experience with his current roles and help himself grow as a driver en route to victory lane in 2021.

“We’re going to enjoy it,” McDermott said. “I was with the Pasteryak’s for all of the years and still ran my own team at the same time, so I think we will be good. I think you learn a lot about the cars and that helps you understand everything a lot better when you’re in a variety of roles like I have been in. I come from an engineering background and I think if you understand everything, the more you do the better you will be at everything.”

“Just being able to get the opportunity to do what I do now is because of all of the people that have supported me in my career. Everyone is always pushing me to be better. All of my experiences have been great and I look to continue on with it this year.”

Registration for the 2021 Tri Track season is open, and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.

FOOTBALL from page 7

ful AA Conference is Holyoke High School. Holyoke will renew acquaintances with both Minnechaug and Agawam during the abbreviated football season.

The football season is especially significant for Holyoke because the Knights as a school, will be participating in an athletic conference for the first time since Oct. 21, when the fall season was cut short in the city because Holyoke entered its third straight week of being in the red, high-risk for

COVID-19 spread category. At that point, Holyoke officials stopped playing off all sports, cancelling the remainder of the fall season. Holyoke remained in the red category due to the second surge for four months, and officials cancelled the winter season while other schools in the red chose to participate in the basketball, hockey, and swimming season.

Holyoke finally went into the yellow two weeks ago, and green-lighted the Fall 2 season, allowing football, girls volleyball, unified basketball, and cheerlead-

ing to take place. The Knights are currently scheduled to play in the second week of the season, on March 26 against Minnechaug. The Knights are not currently scheduled for a Week 1 game.

The rest of the schedules are on miaa.net for most teams. The football season is set to conclude at the end of April, so teams can move into the abbreviated spring season, which will go from early May to the very end of June.

There will be no playoffs for the football season.

SKOWRA from page 7

The Panthers, who competed in the Central Mass. Pod 6 this winter because of the COVID-19 pandemic, finished the season with a 6-5 overall record. They lost to top-seeded Oakmont in a Pod 6 semifinal game on February 17.

Skowyra, who’s a three-year member of the varsity basketball team, scored 152 points during his senior season. He reached double digits in nine of the eleven games that he played in. He scored a season-high 19 points in 61-43 home win versus Gardner in the second game of the season. All of the Pod 6 teams faced each other twice during the same week.

Skowyra played for the junior varsity basketball team as a freshman.

He became a starting forward for the varsity squad the following year.

“I worked really hard during the summer before my sophomore year,” said Skowyra, who’s 6-foot-5. “When coach Dex told me that I had made the varsity basketball team words really can’t describe how excited I was. I never expected to be one of the starter’s that season because there were guys on the team who I thought were better than me.”

It was also a rebuilding season for the Quabbin boys’ basketball team, who didn’t qualify for the postseason tournament.

As a junior, Skowyra helped Quabbin post a 16-6 overall record. The Panthers captured the Mid-Wach C League title and were invited to play in the prestigious Clark Tournament. They then advanced to the semifinals of the Western Mass. Division 2 tournament where they lost to Chicopee.

“Shea carried us in a number



File photos

of games last year. It was a fantastic season for both him and our team,” said Dextradeur, who has seen more than 30 of his players go on and play college basketball. “He’s a hard worker. He’s a great example for the younger players in our program. We’re very proud that he’ll be playing college bas-

ketball next year. It’s been a lot of fun watching him play basketball during the past couple of years.”

Skowyra, who was also a member of the Panthers boy’s cross-country team, gave his thoughts about playing in the postseason tournament for the first time during his varsity basketball career.

“I knew we would be a very good basketball team last year because we had a group of guys who had played together for a couple of years,” he said. “We really wanted to win it all, but Chicopee was a better opponent than we were. Playing in the postseason tournament for the first time was very exciting.

The Clark Tournament and the MIAA tournament were held this winter because of COVID-19.

Coach Dextradeur, who recently completed his 41st season coaching basketball at his alma mater, is one of Skowyra’s role models.

“Coach Dex has taught me how to be another coach on the court and he’s definitely one of my mentors,” Skowyra said. “I would like to be a basketball coach and an athletic training in the future.”

The U.N.E. men’s basketball coach is Ed Silva, who also coached basketball at Elms College. Silva, who has spent the last nine seasons at U.N.E. has won almost 500 games during his collegiate coaching career.

“Coach Silva was someone that stood out during my recruiting process,” Skowyra said. “He likes to see all of his players succeed and he stays connected with them even after they graduate from college. I already have a good relationship with him.”

The deadline for submissions for this sports section is the Monday before publication by noon.

To send in information, contact Sports Editor at 413-283-8393, send an e-mail to sports@turley.com or send it through the mail to: Turley Publications, c/o Sports Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, March 1
1:14 a.m. Fire, Report Sunny Hill Drive – Referred to Other Agency
4 a.m. Parking Complaint Aspen Street – Citation Issued
2:12 p.m. Ambulance Request Crescent Street – Services Rendered
4:51 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report North Street – Services Rendered
5:18 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Cherry Street – Arrest, Felony Charge
5:21 p.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
5:35 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Services Rendered
8:19 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Referred to Other Agency
8:41 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Church Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Under \$1,000
11:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Criminal Complaint Issued

Tuesday, March 2
4:01 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Avenue – Citation Issued
4:05 a.m. Parking Complaint Pleasant Street – Citation Issued
4:11 a.m. Parking Complaint Bellevue Avenue – Citation Issued
4:12 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
6:22 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
9:56 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Chechesky Road – Services Rendered
11:44 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
3:30 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Aspen Street – Services Rendered
4:05 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Main Street – Investigation Pending
9:33 p.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Wednesday, March 3
9:06 a.m. Ambulance Request Gould Road – Services Rendered
10:31 a.m. Ambulance Request Sherwin Street – Services Rendered
11:56 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
1:25 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
5:01 p.m. Harassment Complaint Homecrest Avenue – Services Rendered
10:45 p.m. Ambulance Request Dale Street – Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, March 4
8:47 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
11:31 a.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Services Rendered
12:28 p.m. Alarm Burglar South Street – Services Rendered
3:22 p.m. Silent, 911 Call South Street – Services Rendered
4:27 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
8:05 p.m. Officer Wanted Osborne Road – Investigated, Report Filed
8:50 p.m. Officer Wanted North Street – Investigated, Report Filed

Friday, March 5
12:42 a.m. Arrest Gould Road – Services Rendered
6:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
5:25 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
6:55 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
9:03 p.m. Disturbance West Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
11:39 p.m. Assault Otis Avenue – Services Rendered

Saturday, March 6
4:34 a.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued
4:47 a.m. Parking Complaint Church Street – Citation Issued
4:55 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
5:03 a.m. Parking Complaint East Main Street – Citation Issued
5:12 a.m. Parking Complaint High Street – Citation Issued
8:42 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
9:33 a.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Referred to Other Agency
11:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Criminal Complaint Issued
2:02 p.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
2:30 p.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
4:08 p.m. Ambulance Request Wildflower Drive – Referred to Other Agency
4:24 p.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
5:21 p.m. Hang-up 911 Call Church Street – Arrest, Felony Charge

6:49 p.m. Hang-up 911 Call Highland Village – Services Rendered
9:35 p.m. Disturbance Hillside Village – Arrest, Felony Charge

Sunday, March 7
1:15 a.m. Ambulance Request Wildflower Drive – Referred to Other Agency
3:07 a.m. Parking Complaint Mountain View Drive – Citation Issued
3:19 a.m. Parking Complaint Aspen Street – Citation Issued
4:09 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Street – Citation Issued
4:41 a.m. Parking Complaint Sherwin Street – Citation Issued
4:49 a.m. Parking Complaint Walnut Street – Citation Issued
4:55 a.m. Parking Complaint Walnut Street – Citation Issued
5:22 a.m. Parking Complaint Castle Street – Citation Issued
5:32 a.m. Parking Complaint Castel Street – Citation Issued
7:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Written Warning
8:48 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – No Police Service Necessary
9:16 a.m. Drug/Narcotics Violation Dale Street – Services Rendered
11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Main Street – Criminal Complaint Issued
11:46 a.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency
11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Criminal Complaint Issued
12:47 p.m. Disturbance Wildflower Drive – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
2:05 p.m. Trespassing Complaint West Main Street – Services Rendered
3:33 p.m. Missing Person Glendale Circle – Services Rendered
4:01 p.m. Ambulance Request Warebrook Drive – Referred to Other Agency
7:42 p.m. Weapons Violation Vernon Street – Investigation Pending
8:59 p.m. Ambulance Request East Street – Referred to Other Agency

Monday, March 8
3:05 a.m. Ambulance Request Anderson Road – Referred to Other Agency
9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation North Street – Citation Issued

Warren Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 28
2:56 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Chapel Street – Officer Spoke to Party
9:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Monday, March 1
1:29 p.m. Gunshots Main Street – Services Rendered
3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Reed Street – Citation Issued
5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Tuesday, March 2
2:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Wednesday, March 3
11:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:51 p.m. Serve Warrant Dunham Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Richard W. Brown, 50, Warren, Warrant
6:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Thursday, March 4
2:43 a.m. Overdose/Poisoning Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Joseph S. Dronzek, 37, Warren, Fugitive From Justice on Court Warrant
12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:39 p.m. Fraud/Forgery School Street – Officer Spoke to Party
8:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
10:56 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 5
7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Quaboag Street – Citation Issued
9:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Milton O. Fountain Way – Officer Spoke to Party
11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
12:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
6:02 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Winthrop Terrace – Transported to Hospital
10:12 p.m. Breaking and

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Entering in Progress Residential North Street – Negative Contact

Saturday, March 6
10:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Bridge Street – Citation Issued
2:48 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope South Street – Referred to Other Agency

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 1 to 8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 69 building/property checks, 17 directed/area patrols, 12 radar assignments, eight traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, one animals call, five motor vehicle stops and one motor vehicle accident in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 1
1:06 p.m. 911 – Threat Bridge Street – Report Taken
1:24 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Upper Church Street – Transported to Hospital
2:32 p.m. 911 – Welfare Check Brook Road – Officer Handled
2:35 p.m. Phone – Welfare Check Bridge Street – Services Rendered
7:32 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital
10:02 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Main Street – Removed Hazard
10:40 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Turkey Street – Officer Handled
11:19 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Greenwich Road – Taken/ Referred to Other Agency
11:24 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Old Greenwich Plains Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:36 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Old Greenwich Plains Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:43 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Thayer Road – Removed Hazard
11:58 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Miner Road – Taken/Referred

Tuesday, March 2
5:55 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Upper Church Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
6:18 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Czesky Road – Taken/ Referred to Other Agency
7:46 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Hall Road – Dispatch Handled
9:05 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Mellon Road – Services Rendered
9:23 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Grove Street – Removed Hazard
9:57 a.m. Phone – Motor Vehicle Accident Czesky Road – Report Taken
8:48 p.m. Phone – Fire, Other Main Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, March 3
9:22 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Upper Church Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:19 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Muddy Brook Road –

Report Taken
1:30 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Petersham Road – Services Rendered
2:32 p.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Old Petersham Road – Transported to Hospital
4:19 p.m. Initiated – Harassment Church Lane – Spoken To

Thursday, March 4
3:05 p.m. 911 – Missing Person High Street – Services Rendered

Friday, March 5
6:42 a.m. Walk-on – Safety Hazard Main Street – Taken/ Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, March 6
1:12 a.m. 911 – Disturbance Bridge Street – Peace Restored
12:11 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Ridge Road – Services Rendered
8:20 p.m. 911 – Complaint/ Motor Vehicle Operations Main Street – Could Not Located
9:07 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 1 to 8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 18 building/property checks, 21 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, four traffic controls, one emergency 911 call, one animals call, one motor vehicle stop, one fraud and five safety hazards in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, March 1
6:15 p.m. Initiated – Fraud Worcester Road – Investigated

9:49 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Gilbertville Road – Removed Hazard
11:17 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Old Turnpike Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, March 2
4:43 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Unitas Road – Services Rendered
6:20 a.m. Radio – Safety Hazard Hardwick Road – Taken/ Referred to Other Agency

7:52 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Gilbertville Road – Removed Hazard

Thursday, March 4
4:45 p.m. 911 – Scam Gilbertville Road – Dispatch Handled

Sunday, March 7
5:04 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop West Brookfield Road – Summons Issued

Northwestern DA Michael Sullivan’s office hosts stalking seminar

REGION – A virtual training aimed at increasing reporting and charging of the crime of stalking drew 200 people last week.

An estimated 8% of women and 2% of men have been stalked at some time in their life; it’s an alarming crime that poses difficult challenges to local law enforcement.

“Stalking is homicide in slow motion,” said Dana Fleitman, associate advisor of Aequitas Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center in Washington, D.C. According to Fleitman, stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.

Some 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims, and 76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year leading up to the homicide, Fleitman said.

Fleitman was the main speaker at a virtual training sponsored by the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office last week. About 200 area law enforcement, court staff and community advocates attended the training titled, “Intimate Partner Violence & the Crime of Stalking.”

In the Northwestern District of Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol, there have been 23 intimate partner violence-related homicides since 1984, most recently one in 2017 and one in 2019.

The primary goal of the training was to offer information to area law enforcement and community partners to increase reporting and charging of the crime of stalking, Mary Kociela, director of Domestic & Sexual Violence Projects at the DA’s Office, said.

Victims are experiencing stalking, but they often don’t report it, Kociela said.

There were 10 stalking cases received by the DA’s Office in a

three-year period: four in 2016, one in 2017 and five in 2018.

These numbers are low, however, when compared to data from referrals to the NWDA’s Domestic High Risk Team, an interdisciplinary collaboration of law enforcement, state agencies, batterer’s intervention programs and victim advocates, which works to identify high risk behaviors in order to maximize victim safety and offender accountability. Stalking, strangulation, sexual assault and escalating violence are among behaviors identified as at high risk of leading to homicide.

Referrals to the High Risk Team in the same three-year period between 2016 and 2018 included 45 cases of stalking: 11 in 2016, 15 in 2017 and 19 in 2018.

“Stalking is a serious crime for victims of intimate partner violence that can actually escalate after the victim tries to separate from the abusive partner,” Kociela said.

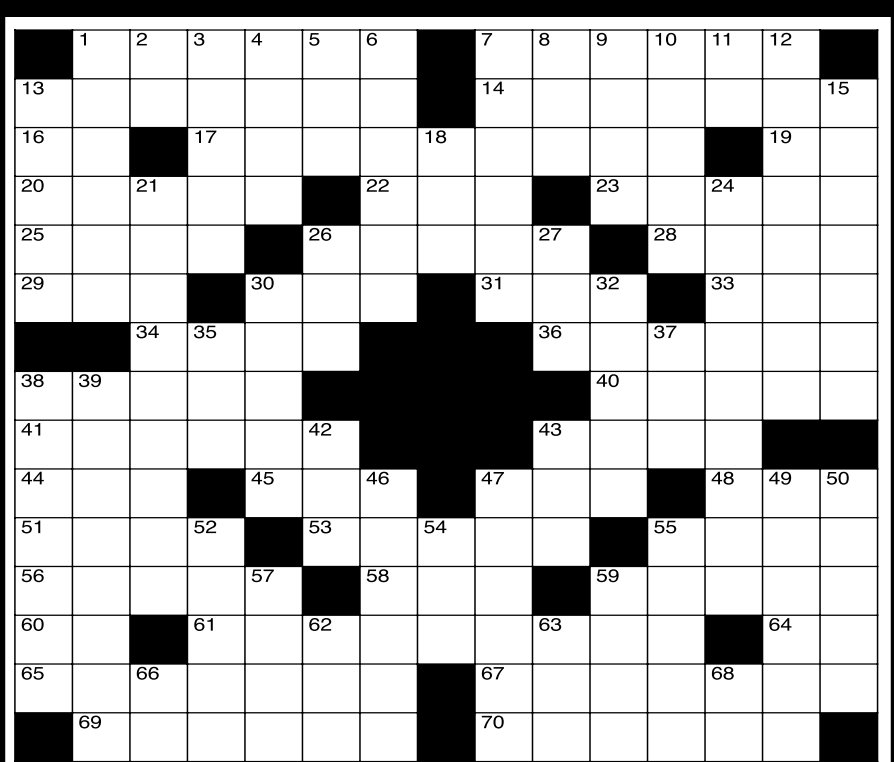
Victims of stalkers might feel anxious, nervous, isolated, become stressed or develop signs of depression.

Fleitman shared quotes from victims who have experienced stalking.

“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life,” one victim said.

“For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there,” another said.

Attendees participated in an exercise utilizing the SHARP tool, a 43-item web-based assessment which provides an assessment of the “big picture” of a stalking situation. The SHARP tool offers an easy way to assess the level of risk in stalking situations.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Large dung beetle
 - 7. Representation of a plan
 - 13. In a fervid way
 - 14. The Book of Psalms
 - 16. Morning
 - 17. Exactly the same
 - 19. About
 - 20. Brown and basmati are two
 - 22. Swiss river
 - 23. Philippine island
 - 25. Expressions of surprise
 - 26. An ant
 - 28. Common Japanese surname
 - 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
 - 30. Car mechanics group
 - 31. A person's brother or sister
 - 33. Ancient pharaoh
 - 34. Quantitative fact
 - 36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one

40. Organic compound

41. Section at the end of a book

43. Flat tableland with steep edges

44. Criticize

45. Split pulses

47. Brief trend

48. Cool!

51. Purposes

53. Brews

55. Skin condition

56. Pops

58. American air travel company

59. Minute bug

60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

61. One who rides in your car

64. One of the Gospels

65. City in southern Spain

67. Inquisitive

69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. An ape or monkey
 - 2. Chemical element
 - 3. Zodiac sign
 - 4. Removes
 - 5. Brew
 - 6. Nickname
 - 7. Architectural structures
 - 8. Trigonometric function
 - 9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
 - 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
 - 11. Mountain (abbr.)
 - 12. Landscaping practice
 - 13. Capacitance unit
 - 15. Redirect
 - 18. Hat for women
 - 21. In a way, dressed down
 - 24. Granny
 - 26. Feed
27. Endpoint

30. Indian instrument

32. Bleated

35. Cablegram (abbr.)

37. Root mean square (abbr.)

38. Jellyfishes

39. Individual TV installments

42. Talk

43. More (Spanish)

46. Leaseholder

47. Monetary units

49. Hostility

50. Work stations

52. Linguistics giant

54. Female sheep

55. Calendar month

57. Seasoning

59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey

62. Single Lens Reflex

63. A way to remove

66. Virginia

68. Old English

Remember Daylight Savings begins this weekend... Spring Ahead

public notices

Notice of taking must be published or served, and must also be posted in two or more public and convenient places and on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's website (masspublicnotices.org) at least fourteen days before the advertised time of taking.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HARDWICK
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **April 26, 2021, 9:00 o'clock A.M.**, at 307 MAIN STREET, GILBERTVILLE, MA, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60; Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE TOWN OF HARDWICK the following parcels of land for non-payment, after demand, of the taxes due thereon hereinafter respectively specified, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Name of Owner(s) Unpaid	Year Assessed	Amount of T a x /
ARMENT, CHARLES G JR & WILLIAM T DESCRIPTION: 0.367 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Bridge Street as described in Book 11875 Page 229, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 58.0 Lot 1.A	2020	\$219.20
ARMENT, CHARLES G JR & WILLIAM T DESCRIPTION: 0.556 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 266 Main Street as described in Book 11875 Page 229, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 58.0 Lot 1.0	2020	\$597.88
ARMENT, CHARLES G JR & WILLIAM T DESCRIPTION: 4.31 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Off Main Street as described in Book 11875 Page 229, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 58.0 Lot 1.B	2020	\$51.81
ASPEN STREET ROD & GUN CLUB DESCRIPTION: 40.03 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Miner Road as described in Book 4270 Page 413, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 94.B Lot 7.0	2020	\$255.68
BATEMAN, SHERRY J DESCRIPTION: 3.889 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 437-B Fiske Road as described in Book 33998 Page 378, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 88.A Lot 2.0	2020	\$3,293.48
BIGGS, T K CONSTRUCTION, INC. DESCRIPTION: 0.371 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 8-10 Lower Road as described in Book 18276 Page 214, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 52.0 Lot 20.0	2020	\$2,086.70
BOUDREAU, DARREN DESCRIPTION: 14.00 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Off Fiske Road as described in Book 54424 Page 174, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 88.B Lot 13.0	2020	\$335.58
COOPER, BRENDA DESCRIPTION: 0.112 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 6 Railroad Lane as described in Book 56671 Page 363, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 55.0 Lot 9.0	2020	\$1,983.44
DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS Now or Formerly GREEN VALLEY DESCRIPTION: 0.218 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 10-12 Duhamel Court as described in Book 55473 Page 30, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 52.0 Lot 4.B	2020	\$593.25
GAUMOND, JUDITH P DESCRIPTION: 0.306 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Main Street as described in Book 4362 Page 140, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 61.0 Lot 20.0	2020	\$375.53
GAUMOND, JUDITH P DESCRIPTION: 0.385 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 384-386 Main Street as described in Book 4362 Page 140, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 63.0 Lot 5.0	2020	\$5,645.29
GOODFIELD-HUDSON, LORELEI & GOODFIELD JONATHAN, TRUSTEES OF GOODFIELD FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST DESCRIPTION: 53.00 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Ridge Road & Barre Road as described in Book 56264 Page 269, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 99.0 Lot 3.0	2020	\$58.16

GOODFIELD-HUDSON, LORELEI & GOODFIELD JONATHAN, TRUSTEES OF GOODFIELD FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST DESCRIPTION: 2.00 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Barre Road as described in Book 56264 Page 269, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 101.0 Lot 2.0	2020	\$3.98
GOODFIELD-HUDSON, LORELEI & GOODFIELD JONATHAN, TRUSTEES OF GOODFIELD FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST DESCRIPTION: 7.70 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Ridge Road as described in Book 56264 Page 269, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 101.0 Lot 3.0	2020	\$11.94
LAFLEUR, ROBERTA H DESCRIPTION: 1.605 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Mellon Road & Breen Road as described in Book 26379 Page 182, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 11.0 Lot 3.D	2020	\$936.43
LAFLEUR, ROBERTA H DESCRIPTION: 1.61 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Breen Road as described in Book 26379 Page 182, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 11.0 Lot 3.B	2020	\$890.09
MCELROY, FRANCIS M DESCRIPTION: 0.762 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 1820-1822 Barre Road as described in Book 58833 Page 93, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 147.0 Lot 43.0	2020	\$2,614.15
MOORE, MICHAEL D DESCRIPTION: 0.00 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 11 Broad Street as described in Book 58515 Page 112, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 51.0 Lot 17.D	2020	\$1,322.34
PREINER, DAVID & AZRA DESCRIPTION: 0.086 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 18-20 Church Street as described in Book 57502 Page 356, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 52.0 Lot 6.0	2020	\$3,573.02
SAMEK, AUDREY D DESCRIPTION: 4.236 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Patrill Hollow Road as described in Book 49297 Page 98, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 86.0 Lot 19.0	2020	\$840.55
SENOSK, MARK S DESCRIPTION: 0.444 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Taylor Street & High Street as described in Book 17753 Page 94, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 63.0 Lot 7.A	2020	\$60.72
SENOSK, MARK S DESCRIPTION: 0.277 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 397-403 Main Street as described in Book 17753 Page 94, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 63.0 Lot 7.0	2020	\$4,396.60
SNOW, CORRINE A & BRIAN A DESCRIPTION: 1.548 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 476 Upper Church Street as described in Book 40470 Page 252, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 109.0 Lot 4.0	2020	\$1,104.02
STEWART, TODD D Now or Formerly SCOTT M. AND CHRISTINE M. TOUPIN DESCRIPTION: 0.356 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 81-83 Maple Street as described in Book 50966 Page 165, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 147.0 Lot 24.0	2020	\$845.15
VOILAND, KATHLEEN ANN DESCRIPTION: 0.10 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 28 Church Street as described in Book 13512 Page 217, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 52.0 Lot 8.0	2020	\$24.32
WHEELER, C RUTH C/O OLD FURNACE, LLC DESCRIPTION: 27.19 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Prouty Road as described in Book 29735 Page 94, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 113.0 Lot 5.0	2020	\$24.33
WILK, JASON L DESCRIPTION: 1.745 +/- Acres of land and/or buildings thereon located on 0 Mellon Road as described in Book 50741 Page 143, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and shown on the Assessors Map 11.0 Lot 3.F	2020	\$893.28

Ellen F. Whitney
Collector of Taxes for the Town of Hardwick
03/11/2021

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Notice of Public Hearing
Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICE
SP-2021-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, April 1 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Gevork Anderyassian for a Special Permit (SP-2021-01). Applicant is requesting approval for a home occupation to use an existing barn and garage as a creative workshop for an internet based business. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. Public is encouraged to attend via digital platform Zoom Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784-604-1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: **111 East Street, Ware, MA.** Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 11865, Page 308. Assessor's Parcel 24-0-32. Zoned: Highway Commercial (HC).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office by appointment and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Richard Starodoj, Chairman
03/04, 03/11/2021

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING
Baystate Mary Lane
Outpatient Center
85 South Street,
Ware, MA 01082

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (the "Department") has received notification of Baystate Wing Hospital Corporation's intent to discontinue its Satellite Emergency Facility and other hospital-based services at Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center in Ware, MA.

Given the evolving nature of COVID-19, Governor Baker's State of Emergency in Massachusetts, and out of an abundance of caution, the Department will conduct a hearing pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(D) virtually by conference call. This hearing will not be adjudicatory in nature, but rather a public forum for the presentation of any comments which may be relevant to the Department's consideration of the proposed change.

The hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, April 1, 2021, 6:00 PM -9:00 PM.** Members of the public and other interested parties may join the hearing by phone using the following information:
Phone Number: 888-390-5007
Passcode: 5808216

Written comments concerning this matter may be submitted to the Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, Attn: Closure Coordinator, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 or by email to HFLLicenseAction@Mass.Gov. **Comments will be accepted up to 9:00 PM on April 1st.** All written comments submitted to the Department may be posted on the

Department's website and released in response to a request for public records. 03/11/2021

TOWN OF WARE
ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that Sealed Bids for construction of the Ware Town Hall Masonry Restoration for the Town of Ware, MA, will be received at the Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, 01082 until **3:00 P.M. prevailing time, on Friday, April 2, 2021** at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Copies of the bid documents may be obtained on or after **Thursday, March 11, 2021.** Bid Documents shall be provided via a direct download link emailed to prospective bidders. Contact Stuart Beckley, Town Manager at the following email address to register to bid and receive the Bid Documents: sbeckley@townofware.com

Bid security in the form of a bid bond payable to the "Town of Ware", is required in a dollar amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid.

The selected contractor shall furnish a payment bond and a performance bond in amount at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

A portion of the project is funded through a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Bidder must comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations. Bidders shall be required to comply with "Equal Opportunity Clause" and "Nondiscrimination in Employment", as well as Federal Executive Order No. 11246, including any amendments and supplements relating thereto.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and prevailing wage rates to be paid under this contract as determined by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of the MA Labor Laws.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (including MBE and WBE) policies of the Federal Government, State of MA and the Town of Ware are applicable to this Contract. The goal for this project is a minimum of ten (10) percent participation by state-certified MBEs/WBEs. The Bidder shall submit completed MBEI/WBE forms with the bid. Failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph may be deemed to render a proposal nonresponsive.

A Mandatory Prebid Conference will be held on **Friday, March 19, 2021, at 11:00 A.M.**, at the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. Bidders will have an opportunity to view the site and the work at the Prebid Conference.

Any request for interpretation of plans and specifications may be submitted in writing to Mr. Stuart Beckley by **Friday, March 26, 2021 at 3:00 PM.**

The Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 90 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded after the opening of bids. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.
03/11/2021

Notice of Public Hearing
Planning Board
LEGAL NOTICE
to be published in the
SP-2021-02

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday April 1, 2021 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Greenwich Road Realty, LLC, for an extension of Special Permit (SP-2021-02) for an approval earth removal operation (SP-2019-01) under Section 4.8.5, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. The public is encourage to attend via digital platform **Zoom Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join>** or join by phone. **Phone Number:** 929-205-6099; **Meeting ID:** 784-604-1861; **Password:** 01082.

SITE LOCATION: Greenwich Road, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 10396, Page 108. Assessor Parcel 35-12-1. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

A complete copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning and Community Development Department webpage under recent filings or by appointment. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Richard Starodoj, Chairman
03/11, 03/18/2021

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Warren
Community
Development Block
Grant (CDBG)
Public Hearing

The town of Warren, through the Board of Selectmen, will conduct a performance hearing regarding their ongoing Community Development Block Grant Programs. Future projects under consideration as well as the town's current FY 2019 CDF programs will be discussed. The hearing will be held on **Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m** at the Shepard Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083.

The FY 2019 CDBG program provided funding for improvements to Moore Avenue and Lombard Street. Additional funding was also provided by the town. The combined funding sources helped the town make comprehensive improvements to the streets including potable water, sewer, drainage, curbing, street and sidewalks improvements.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning Warren's CDBG program and ongoing activities will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Town prior to the meeting date at (413) 436-5701.

These activities and programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts CDBG program.
03/11/2021

Notice of Sale of Motor
Vehicle under
G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by: **Regin's Repair, 19 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **March 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at Regin's Repair by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 2012 Nissan Rogue
Registration#/State: C124LR/MA
VIN: JN8AS5MV6CW418750
Name and address of owner: Joseph Kenyon
114 North St.
Ware, MA 01082

By: **James M. Regin**
Dated: 2/16/2021
02/25, 03/04, 03/11/2021

Town of Warren
Tree Warden
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 4 (Cutting of public shade trees; public hearing; damages to fee owner), the Town of Warren Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application from the Town of Warren to remove twenty one(21) public shade trees located on Cronin Road. The hearing will be held **Friday, March 19, 2021 at 2:00 pm** in the Highway Building, 87 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated, or may submit a letter to the Tree Warden before the hearing so that it may be read into the hearing record. Correspondence should be sent to Tree Warden at PO Box 609, Warren, MA, 01083.

The list of town trees designated for removal are as follows: located on Cronin Road located between National Grid utility poles numbered 7 & 8, a 14 inch and a 28 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 10 & 10-5, a 16 inch white pine and a 16 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 12 & 13, a 30 inch oak; located across from National Grid utility pole numbered 17; a 20 inch dead locust; located at National Grid utility poles numbered 17, a 14 inch ash; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 17 & 18, a 30 inch ash; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 18 & 19, an 8 inch and a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 19 & 20, an 8 inch cherry, a 12 inch maple, a 30 inch maple, and a 20 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 20 & 21, a 12 inch oak and an 8 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 21 & 22, a 36 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22 & 22-5, a 36 inch oak and a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22-5 & 23, a 40+ inch oak; located across from National Grid utility pole numbered 25, a 24 inch dead oak.

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr.
Tree Warden
03/04, 03/11/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1

Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2

Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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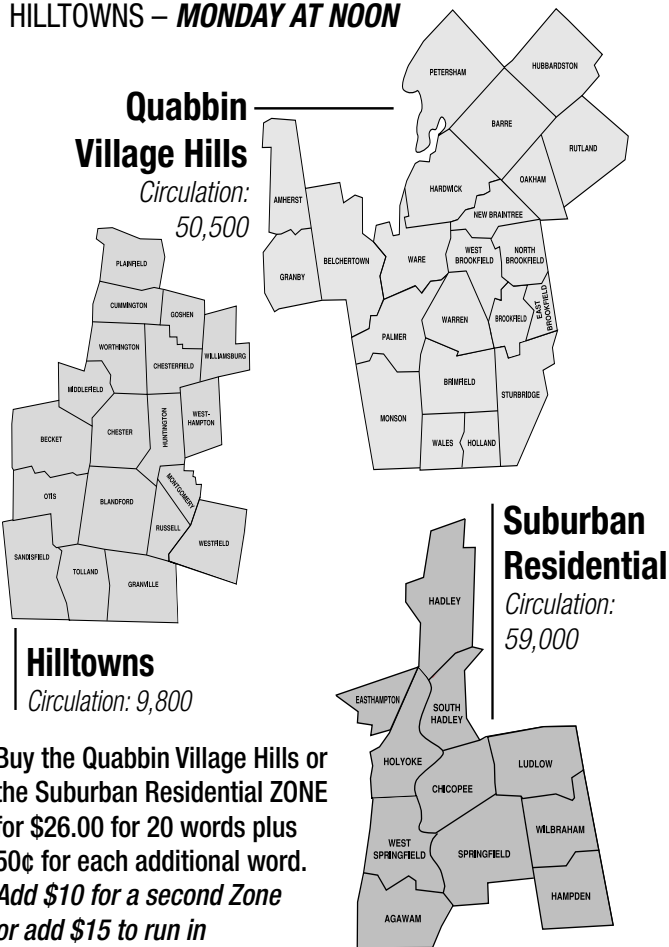
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COVID-19 vaccines can result in false positive mammograms

Doctors recommend getting mammogram before or a few weeks later

SPRINGFIELD – Women and the COVID-19 vaccine are back in the news again. First it was the question as to whether pregnant women should get the vaccine, now the concern is over mammograms and the effects the COVID vaccines may play in imaging, which can result in false positives. Since the first of the COVID-

19 vaccines began to roll out in late December, radiologists across the country have seen an increase in abnormal mammograms which showed swollen lymph nodes. “The presence of swollen lymph nodes, although rare, on a mammogram could be a sign of breast cancer requiring an additional exam or even a biopsy. When women receive a callback after a

mammogram, it can be quite anxiety producing, but usually doesn’t mean cancer,” said radiologist Dr. Jennifer Hadro, medical co-director of breast imaging at Baystate Health. To save women the anxiety over a possible false positive, the Society of Breast Imaging released the following statement: “If possible, and when it does not unduly

delay care, consider scheduling screening exams prior to the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination or four to six weeks following the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination.” “Swollen lymph nodes on the side of the injection are not unusual after being vaccinated against other viruses such as the flu and may actually be a good sign. Their pres-

ence is an indication that the vaccine is likely doing its job and your body is beginning to build up an immunity to the virus,” Hadro said. Women with irregular results on their mammogram will need a follow-up after their second dose of the vaccine in order to be certain that the inflammation was nothing more than a side effect to the vaccine. “The recommendations above apply to screening mammography only, meaning women with-

out any concerns such as a lump or other breast changes. We know that mammograms save lives, and if your doctor has ordered a mammogram as a precaution after feeling a lump or other concern, it’s important to keep that appointment even if you have been vaccinated in the past four to six weeks,” said Hadro. For more information about Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.

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